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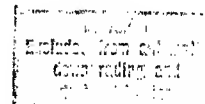
ORD-7699-70

24 November 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Procurement Management Staff
THROUGH: Director of Research and Development
SUBJECT: Agency Patent Disclosures

1. In connection with the discussions held at the Staff meetings concerning the status of patent disclosure actions as viewed from ORD's standpoint, we have compiled background data which lists most, if not all, of the ORD patent applications to date. This data is presented in two attachments to this memorandum. One of these is a summary tabulation of the application actions and the second attachment is a slightly more detailed listing of the patent application data.
2. As can be seen from a review of the summary tabulation, the average time of response from the first Patent Board review is about 4 months. The time to the second response which is necessitated by resubmittal of documentation and further action has on some occasions involved as long as 18 months. A considerable amount of this time accrues due to the time lapse involved in responses from the Patent Board after each answer submitted by the inventor.
3. As a result of reviewing this past chronological history and other experiences which have occurred in working with patent applications, we feel there are a number of recommended actions that ORD should attempt to achieve. These are tabulated below:
 - a. There should be more information available regarding Patent Board operation meeting dates, etc., so as to make potential applicants more familiar with the procedures and timeliness of submissions. The

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Patent Board should possibly have a deputy or vice chairman who could serve during those periods when the Chairman is not available to either answer questions or take action as required.

b. The Patent Board should be enlarged in membership to assist in having a quorum present at the meetings and perhaps additional personnel from technical groups as well as a member from a security group should be added.

c. As the Regulations are currently written, in general inventors cannot obtain the commercial rights to inventions. It is recommended that a revision be made to the Regulations to try to assign the commercial rights to inventions to the inventors while maintaining Government royalty free license in all cases to such inventions. Such action would provide considerable incentive to potential inventors to file disclosures and with royalty free Government rights, these inventions would still provide the full protection to the Government.

d. Further consideration should be given to encourage the filing of patents by all Agency personnel, especially those in ORD, through the use of some sort of incentive approach.

4. It should be recalled that the whole area of patent applications is an important one with regard to the functioning of the Agency not only for the Agency employees but for contractors as well. An important case to recall is that of [redacted] patent situation in regard to a program which had an impact on a large procurement decision that was made by the DCI.

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5. With the greater and greater emphasis of collection techniques being placed on scientific and technical approaches, it would seem logical that more emphasis in the patent area would be warranted.

[Redacted]

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Attachments (2)
As stated.

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